

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 06363 100759Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 ACDA-12

HA-05 /115 W

-----038133 102134Z /56

R 091454Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6229

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

CONFIDENTIAL ADDIS ABABA 6363

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, MOPS, ET, SO, KE

SUBJ: KENYAN SEES WAR TURNAROUND IN ETHIOPIA'S FAVOR

SUMMARY: KENYAN MILITARY ATTACHE COL. MUSONYE, WHO BECAUSE OF HIS SOMEWHAT GREATER ACCESS TO ETHIOPIAN MILITARY IS AMONG MORE RELIABLE SOURCES WITHIN LOCAL ATTACHE CORPS, BELIEVES THAT SOMALI INVASION HAS RUN OUT OF STEAM AND THAT SITUATION IN OGADEN HAS STABILIZED IN ETHIOPIA'S FAVOR. UNUSUALLY HEAVY AUTUMN RAINS HAVE HAMPERED BOTH ARMIES. END SUMMARY.

1. ACCORDING TO MUSONYE IN CONVERSATION WITH POLCOUNS, MORALE PROBLEMS THAT HAD CONTRIBUTED TO FALL OF JIJIGA AND CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 ADDIS 06363 100759Z

AND LED TO FACTIONAL DISPUTES BETWEEN CAREER ARMY, MILITIA, AND POLITICAL CADRE IN ETHIOPIAN FORCES STILL EXIST. HOWEVER, IT NOW LOOKS AS IF BASIC DISCIPLINE HAS BEEN RESTORED. DIRG HAS REPORTEDLY ORDERED SOME EXEMPLARY EXECUTIONS OF BOTH OFFICERS AND MEN, BUT HAD ALSO MADE SOME CONCESSIONS TO OLD LINE OFFICERS DESIGNED TO RESTORE CHAIN OF COMMAND AUTHORITY.

2. MUSONYE SAID THAT MANY OF RETIRED VETERANS CALLED BACK TO SERVICE IN SEPT WERE RUSHED TO FRONT LINES. THERE THEY AND MILITIA WERE CALLED ON TO HOLD DEFENSIVE LINE WHILE REGULAR UNITS WERE TRAINED TO OPERATE NEWLY-ARRIVED SOVIET WEAPONRY. THIS HOLDING PATTERN WAS NOW NEARLY OVER, AND ETHIOPIANS ARE GEARING UP TO TAKE OFFENSIVE AND TO FIGHT DECISIVE CAMPAIGN OF WAR AS SOON AS CESSION OF RECENT HEAVY RAINS PERMITTED UNIMPEDED MOVEMENT OF MECHANIZED EQUIPMENT. IN MUSONYE'S MIND, OUTCOME THIS CAMPAIGN WAS NOT IN DOUBT, GIVEN CLEAR ETHIOPIAN AIR SUPERIORITY, NEW WEAPONRY, HIGHER TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES OF ITS ARMED FORCES, AND STRONG ETHIOPIAN DESIRE FOR REVENGE. SOMALIS WERE NOW DUG IN IN FORCE AROUND JIJIGA, BUT MUSONYE EXPECTED CAMPAIGN TO MOVE QUICKLY, ONCE IT IS LAUNCHED. HE SAW NO LIKELIHOOD THAT ETHIOPIANS WOULD AGREE TO CEASEFIRE SHORT OF REGAINING ALL OF THEIR TERRITORY AND SUGGESTED THAT KENYAN GOVT WOULD ALSO BE DISPLEASED WITH SUCH A CEASEFIRE.

3. DESPITE TEMPTATION TO DO SO, MUSONYE DOUBTED THAT ETHIOPIAN STRATEGY WOULD BE TO OCCUPY NORTHERN PORTION OF SOMALIA AND TRADE IT BACK AGAINST THE REST OF OGADEN, RATHER THAN LABORIOUSLY TO OUST SOMALIS PROGRESSIVELY FROM EACH OGADEN VILLAGE. WHILE HE ACKNOW-  
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PAGE 03 ADDIS 06363 100759Z

LEDGED THAT SOME TACTICAL BORDER INCURSIONS AND AIR RAIDS MIGHT BE NECESSARY, HE ALSO FELT THAT SOVIETS, WHO HAVE BEEN CLAIMING TO EPMG THAT SOMALIS VIOLATED TERMS UNDER WHICH SOVIETS HAD PROVIDED THEM DEFENSIVE WEAPONS, WOULD EXERCISE RESTRAINING HAND.

4. IN SOUTH, MUSONYE SAID THAT KENYAN GOVT HAD MOVED ONE BATTALION OF TROOPS UP TO KENYAN-ETHIOPIAN BORDER TO PREVENT UNAUTHORIZED TRANSITS FROM SOMALIA TO ETHIOPIA, BUT MORE PARTICULARLY TO DISCOURAGE SOMALIS FROM ATTEMPTING TO CAPTURE MOYALE. LATTER BORDER WAS CAREFULLY SEALED SINCE, AS HE SAID, KENYA WAS NOT INTERESTED IN HAVING TO FEED LARGE NUMBERS OF REFUGEES, EITHER ETHIOPIAN OR SOMALI, FLEEING ACROSS BORDER.

5. COMMENT: FROM HIS COMMENTS, IT INCREASINGLY APPEARS THAT KENYA IS MORE INTERESTED IN SEEING SOMALIA DECISIVELY DEFEATED THAT, IT IS WORRIED ABOUT GROWING SOVIET PRESENCE AND INFLUENCE IN ETHIOPIA. EMBASSY IS NOT AS SANGUINE AS HE ABOUT SOVIET ABILITY TO RESTRAIN ETHIOPIANS FROM CARRYING WAR INTO SOMALIS' HOME GROUND. ETHIOPIAN RESENTMENT AGAINST SOMALIA IS

NOW SO STRONG THAT RATIONAL ARGUMENTS NOT LIKELY TO  
PREVAIL WHEN OPPORTUNITY FOR REVENGE ARISES, AND AT  
THAT POINT EVEN SOVIET THREAT OF ARMS CUTOFF WOULD  
HAVE LITTLE EFFECT UPON ETHIOPIANS WITH VICTORY IN  
SIGHT.

MATHERON

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PBOR, MOPS, ET, SO, KE  
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